

### CHAPTER 3 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

**3-1. General.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates as a supporting MACOM within the Army. USACE also has a broader mission to support the Air Force and in contingencies may be required to support all the Services as well as other DOD agencies. This chapter provides background and lays the groundwork for USACE's support role for DOD contingency missions.

**3-2. Department of Defense and National Security.** DOD is but one part (albeit the major component) of the nation's organization for national security. Virtually every department and agency in the Federal Government has responsibilities for support of national security. Constitutionally the ultimate authority and responsibility for national defense rests with the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

a. The **National Security Act of 1947**, as amended, established the DOD as we know it today. The Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) has statutory authority, direction, and control over the military departments and is responsible for the effective, efficient, and economical operation of DOD.

(1) The **National Command Authorities (NCA)** are the President and the SECDEF. The NCA signifies the President's constitutional authority to direct the Armed Forces of the United States in combat operations. Only the NCA can direct both the movement of forces and execution of combat operations. No one else in the military chain of command has that authority.

(2) The **National Security Council (NSC)** was established by the National Security Act of 1947 as a forum to consider national security issues that require a Presidential decision. There are four statutory members: the President, the Vice-President, the SECDEF, and the Secretary of State. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and the Director of Central Intelligence are statutory advisors to the NSC. The President's National Security Advisor is responsible for day-to-day operation of the NSC staff. Aside from the statutory members, the President may invite any senior officials to attend NSC meetings.

b. The **Goldwater-Nichols DOD Reorganization Act of 1986** was intended to clarify the command line between the CINC and the National Command Authorities (NCA). As stated before, only the NCA can deploy and direct the Armed Forces into combat. The operational chain of command is from the NCA to the commanders of the unified or combatant commands.

(1) DOD Directive 5100.1 outlines the functions of the Department of Defense. DOD consists of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Chairman and Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), the Joint Staff (JS), thirteen defense agencies, seven DOD field activities, the three military departments, and the unified commands.

(2) Unified commands are established by the President and have broad continuing missions and are composed of forces from two or more military departments. Combatant command is the authority of a CINC to exercise command over assigned forces for the purpose of conducting military operations. Combatant command is exercised through subordinate commanders (e.g., the Army component commander). There are two types of unified commands: those which have functional responsibilities (Space Command, Transportation Command and Special Operations Command) and those with responsibilities based on a geographic area (European Command, Pacific Command, etc.).

(3) The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) is not in the operational chain of command. Communication from the NCA to the CINC is through the CJCS, placing the CJCS in the communications chain of command. In addition, the SECDEF is permitted wide latitude in assigning oversight responsibilities to the CJCS for control and coordination of the CINC.

(4) The CINC are responsible to the NCA for the performance of their assigned missions. To give the CINC the authority needed to conduct joint operations and yet to recognize Service responsibilities for support to component commands, the DOD Reorganization Act of 1986 defines the command authority of the CINC as:

- give authoritative direction to subordinate commands, including all aspects of military operations, joint training, and logistics;

- prescribe the chain of command within the command;
- organize commands and forces to carry out assigned missions;
- employ forces necessary to carry out assigned missions
- coordinate and approve administration, support, and discipline, and;
- exercise authority to select subordinate commanders and combatant command staff.

### **3-3. Department of the Army.**

a. AR 10-5 describes the functions of the Army. The Department of the Army (DA) is organized under the Secretary of the Army (SA) who supervises the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) in matters relating to the Service. Neither the SA nor the department are part of the chain of command (i.e., DA is not directly involved in combat operations). DA consists primarily of the Office of the Secretary of the Army (OSA), the Army Staff (ARSTAF), and the Army major commands (MACOM). The function of the department is to recruit; organize, equip, and supply units; train; mobilize/demobilize; service; administer; construct, outfit, and repair equipment; and construct, maintain, and repair buildings. Thus, DA is the developer of Army forces and logistics support which are provided to the unified combatant commands to support military operations.

#### **b. Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA).**

(1) The SA has responsibility for and the authority to conduct all DA affairs. The OSA staff consists of the Under Secretary and the Assistant Secretaries and their staffs. All officers in the Army report on any matter, at the direction of the Secretary, to the Secretary, Under Secretary, or an Assistant Secretary (ASA). Commander, USACE reports to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (ASA(CW)) on the Civil Works program and work overseas for other than direct support to U.S. military forces and reports to the ASA (Installations, Logistics, and Environment (IL&E)) for military construction (MILCON) and real property related issues.

(2) The ARSTAF is presided over by the CSA and assists the SA on long-range planning, resource allocation, the development of Army objectives, the formulation of policy guidance, and the supervision and control of operations. The CSA is authorized by the SA to supervise the Army. Elements of the Army Staff provide the professional assistance necessary to conduct the affairs of the Army.

(a) The Chief of Engineers (COE) is the principal staff advisor to the CSA on Army military engineering and topography.

(b) The Office of the Chief of Engineers (Pentagon), OCE-P, is an ARSTAF office in the Pentagon which conducts the business of the COE on the ARSTAF. OCE-P consists of the COE and a support staff in the Pentagon. While there is a great deal of interaction between OCE-P and HQUSACE, OCE-P interests and activities span the entire Army engineer community, of which USACE is but one component.

**c. Army MACOM.**

(1) There are two types of Army MACOM, support and field commands. The support MACOM provide specialized support for the entire Army and include such MACOM as Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), Army Materiel Command (AMC), and the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The field commands (U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), Europe (USAREUR), South (USARSO), Central (USARCEN), Eighth U.S. Army (EUSA) and Forces Command (FORSCOM)) are component commands of the unified commands. Note that FORSCOM is a component of U.S. Atlantic Command (USACOM) and, when tasked, provides forces for the other Army component commands. The component commands are assigned units, installations, activities, and subordinate commands by HQDA. The support MACOM provide functional support to the Army component commands and each other.

(2) As a supporting Army MACOM which also has an execution mission in the theater of operations, USACE provides two functions within DOD -- support responsibilities and operational responsibilities.